



Builth Urban District Council.

Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1957.

---

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.  
L.R.C.P.  
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....Mr J.E.Morgan, M.P.H.I.A.  
M.R.S.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28831159>

Builth Urban District CouncilReport of the Medical Officer of Health.1957.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District during the year 1957.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/1958(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....701 acres.

The Urban District of Builth Wells, which has an area of 701 acres is situated on the right bank of the river Wye in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. The district is also a very pleasant country holiday resort.

Population.

Census 1931.....1663.  
Census 1951.....1708.  
Estimated at Midsummer 1957.....1540.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below:

1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957.

1707. 1674. 1674. 1638. 1576. 1561. 1570. 1570. 1560. 1540.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 543 giving an average number of persons per house of 2.9.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate.	11.	10.	21.	
Illegitimate.	0.	2.	2.	
	11.	12.	23.	14.5.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.1. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and, regrettably was also lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy Two illegitimate births were registered during the year.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live &amp; still births</u>
	0.	2.	2.	80.0.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 22.4. The District rate was therefore higher than the national average.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	14.	21.	35.	22.7.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5. The District rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, regrettably, higher than the district birth rate.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year which was a very satisfactory feature.



Builth Urban District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live births.</u>
0.	0.	0.	0.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0. The District rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	Four.

Analysis of Causes of Death. Males.,14. Females.,.,21.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2.	2.
Leukaemia.....	1.	0.
Vascular lesions,nervous system.	0.	4.
Coronary disease.....	0.	4.
Other heart disease.....	8.	9.
Pneumonia.....	0.	1.
Bronchitis.....	1.	1.
Nephritis.....	1.	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.	0.

The causes of death are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.Public Health Officers.

During the year Mr G.Llewellyn left the employ of the Council to take up a similar appointment elsewhere. On June 1st, Mr J.E.Morgan commenced duties as your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Builth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analysts for the County at Carmarthen, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells Hospital. The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough treat the patients suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for disinfection when required have been fumigation and spraying.

Builth Urban District.Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. The Town is supplied by (1.) Tycapel reservoir which is an impounding reservoir to the open moorland catchment area. (2) Newry Well which derives water from a spring. (3) Hongwm Springs which is a piped supply to the Brecon Road Storage Reservoir. (4) Pantyllyn which is an upland lake and only used in cases of emergency. (5) A mobile pump has been purchased by the Council to supplement the town's supply should occasion arise. The pump is capable of pumping far in excess of 60,000 gallons per day which will meet the needs of the community. The above sources were almost adequate during the year but it was necessary to pump for five days in August. The supply was also restricted at nights for approximately one month during August. The Council has so far rejected an invitation to join in a major scheme with neighbouring authorities but have employed a consultant to advise on possible improvements to the present supply. During the year the Council decided to apply to the surrounding Builth and District Water Board for a supply of water during deficiency periods. No new work was done on the supplies during the year. The Council also supply water in bulk to two neighbouring authorities, Colwyn Rural District and Builth Rural District.

The bacteriological examinations of the water during the year were found to be satisfactory, 2 satisfactory results of samples being obtained. Every effort is being made to maintain a pure supply of water by protecting the various sources from likelihood of contamination. Regular inspections were made of the moorland catchment area for evidence of dead sheep etc.

All houses in the district are supplied with a domestic piped supply. 7 houses are supplied with a communal standpipe.

Careful attention to the amount of chlorination necessary was also given.

Number of samples taken during the year.....	2.
Number reported as satisfactory.....	2.
Number reported as unsatisfactory.....	0.
No chemical examination was made during the year.	
Number of visits made by the Public Health Inspector to water supplies	85.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged into the river Wye below the town. The number of houses now not connected to a public sewer is 11, 10 have septic tanks and no nuisance is created. 1 other house has an earth closet.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work.....20.

Consultants have been engaged with the view of preparing a possible sewage disposal works for the town. By the end of the year the survey of the existing system had been made.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection of refuse. This is collected once a week by your Council staff and disposed of by controlled tipping. No tipping takes place now on the old site, a new refuse tip having been continued at Caeau Farm.

Sanitary Inspection of the area. The Sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.



Builth Urban District.Nuisances

Number of complaints received.....	11.
Number of complaints investigated.....	11.
Number of premises inspected.....	13.
Number of premises revisited.....	6.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	5.
Number of statutory notices served.....	0.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under byelaws under Section 6, of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....	4.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....	Nil.
---------------------------------	------

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....	21.
Number of inspections made.....	12.
Number of defects found.....	1.
Number of defects remedied.....	0.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....	4.
----------------------------	----

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Number of premises infested.....	2.
Number of premises disinfested.....	2.

Rodent Control. This work is undertaken by one of the Council's workmen. The Caeau Farm refuse tip was treated twice during the year with good poison bait takes. The sewers were treated in September when there were no takes of bait.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....	32.
Number of premises found infested.....	12.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....	12.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	0.
Number of dead rats picked up during the year.....	72.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No Council houses were built during the year. One house was completed by private enterprise. Nine applications were received for Improvements Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and eight were approved.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

Number of houses which, on inspection, were considered unfit for human habitation.....	Nil.
Number of visits made under the Housing Acts.....	21.
Number of notices served.....	2.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of Distributors. No samples of milk were sent for examination during the year.

Builth Urban District.

Meat. The small private slaughterhouse, licensed on 1st July, 1954, continues to operate in the district.

Number of visits to this slaughterhouse.....68.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed and inspected.	78.	16.	886.	60.

All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	-	131	3
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci	37.1%	-	14.8.%	5%

T.B. only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-

Cysticercosis. Nil.

Disposal. Collected by knacker.

Food condemned during the year. Meat at Slaughterhouse.....804 lbs.  
Amount of other food condemned. 49½ lbs.  
This condemned food was in tins which were all punctured and buried in the Council's tip.

Market Improvements During the year the market continued to work satisfactorily as an attested market and no new work was carried out.

Food Preparation Rooms (including Bakehouses)

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....	13.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of Inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....	Nil.
--	------

In the district there is 1 producer retailer and 6 retailers.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....	5.
---	----

There are 4 of these premises in the town.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....	2.
---	----

There was one fried fish shop in the town.



Builth Urban District.Byelaws under Section 15. Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The number of food premises, by type, were: Licensed Hotels, 12, Food Shops 31, Cafes and unlicensed hotels 8, Fish and Chip Shops 1, and 5 bakehouses.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

Only two cases of measles were reported to me during the year, both of which were nursed at home. This was an extremely satisfactory state of affairs.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	11.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	3.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	0.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	0.
Number of cases who left the district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	14.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:

1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.
3.	3.	1.	4.	4.	3.	2.	3.	0.	1.	1.	3.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year .

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George.  
Medical Officer of Health.